## Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 12-15, with the following paragraph:

-- The present application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/095,472, filed June 10, 1998 (~~allowed~~now U.S. patent number 6,627,151), which claims priority to U.S. Serial No. 60/050,018, filed June 13, 1997 and to U.S. Serial No. 60/049,636, filed June 16, 1997, which applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 5-23, with the following paragraph:

-- According to the above mentioned theory it was assumed from the inventors, that a positive clinical effect might be observed in patients suffering from myocardial circulatory diseases and many other diseases of the microcirculation if the haemorheology could be improved following erythrocyte apheresis in combination with an elimination of fibrinogen and plasma proteins of higher molecular weight. Preliminary observations supported this hypothesis indeed. (R. Brunner, H. Borberg, J. Kadar, M. Heidel, K. Heidner, W. Konen) Erythrocyte apheresis in combination with elimination of fibrinogen and plasma proteins of higher molecular weight in macular disease and uveal effusion syndrome. AMA 1991; 18 (suppl. 1): 63 – 65). As a correction of the haematocrit is not often necessary, the studies concentrated more on an ~~optimation~~optimization of plasma viscosity applying plasma exchange against 5% human albumin (R. Brunner, H. Borberg, J. Kadar, A. Hoffman, W. Konen, M. Heidel, K. Heidner, in

Intermediate Uveitis, WRF Boke, K.F. Manthey, R.B. Nussenblatt (eds), Dev. Ophthalmol, Karger (publ.), Basel 1992; 23: 275 – 284.) These observations were also supported from preliminary observations in cardiological diseases such as refractory angina pectoris in end-stage coronary heart disease. (M. Tauchert, A. Sonntag, B. Weidmann, A. Gaczkowski, R. Brunner, H. Borberg: Extracorporeal hemorheo-therapy of refractory angina pectoris. Jpn. J. Apheresis 1997; 16, 1: 35 – 37).--

Please replace the abstract with the following abstract:

--~~The invention relates to~~ Provided is a method for the effective treatment of diseases associated with a deterioration of the macrocirculation, microcirculation and organ perfusion to achieve an improvement of the local environment and the metabolic situation and to aim at the improvement of organ function or the stabilization of organ function with imminent functional deterioration, which ~~comprises~~involves the treatment of blood of patients by extracorporeal plasmapheresis.--